

Amendment to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-20. Cancelled.

21. (New) A device for a motor vehicle for providing occupant protection during an energy impact directed laterally against a door of the motor vehicle as a result of a collision, comprising a connecting structure including a first part and a second part, the first part being for connection to the door and the second part being for connection to an energy absorbing area of a body of the motor vehicle located in an interior of the motor vehicle and the parts being connectible by at least one section which diverts at least part of the energy impact directed laterally on the door into the energy absorbing area of the body; and wherein

at least one of the parts comprises a shape transformable material which, due to an input of energy, changes in shape causing the parts to adjoin and interlock.

22. (New) The device according to claim 21,
wherein at least one of the parts has a contour matching a contour in the at least one section.

23. (New) The device according to claim 22,
wherein the first part at least one of partially encloses and partially enters the second part.

24. (New) The device according to claim 21,
wherein the parts adjoin at the at least one section upon closing the door.

25. (New) The device according to claim 21,
wherein the parts are interlockable.

26. (New) The device according to claim 21,
wherein the transformable material is made of at least one of: piezo-ceramics,
piezo-polymers, electrostrictive ceramics, electrorheological fluids, polymer gels,
magnetorheological fluids, shape-memory alloys, shape-memory polymers.

27. (New) The device according to claim 21,
wherein at least one of the parts comprising the transformable material
undergoes a change in shape before and during the energy impact directed to the
door caused by the collision so that the two parts provide a reversible active
connection.

28. (New) A device according to claim 21,
wherein the motor vehicle comprises an approach sensory mechanism for
detecting an unavoidable collision which generates a signal causing at least one of
an active element and an intelligent structure to be activatable.

29. (New) The device according to claim 21,
wherein the door is a side door and the second part is attached in a floor
region of the body next to or under a substructure of a seat.

30. (New) The device according to claim 21,
wherein the change in shape influences at least one of vibration and
dampening behavior of the transformable material.

31. (New) The device according to claim 21,
wherein the input of energy to the transformable material is independent of
the energy input from the collision.

32. (New) The device according to claim 22,
wherein the parts adjoin at the at least one section upon closing the door.

33. (New) The device according to claim 23,
wherein the parts adjoin at the at least one joining section upon closing the
door.

34. (New) The device according to claim 22,
wherein the parts are interlockable.

35. (New) The device according to claim 23,
wherein the parts are interlockable.

36. (New) The device according to claim 24,
wherein the parts are interlockable.

37. (New) The device according to claim 22,
wherein the transformable material is made of at least one of: piezo-ceramics,
piezo-polymers, electrostrictive ceramics, electrorheological fluids, polymer gels,
magnetorheological fluids, shape-memory alloys, shape-memory polymers.

38. (New) The device according to claim 23,
wherein the transformable material is made of at least one of: piezo-ceramics,
piezo-polymers, electrostrictive ceramics, electrorheological fluids, polymer gels,
magnetorheological fluids, shape-memory alloys, shape-memory polymers.

39. (New) The device according to claim 24,
wherein the transformable material is made of at least one of: piezo-ceramics,
piezo-polymers, electrostrictive ceramics, electrorheological fluids, polymer gels,
magnetorheological fluids, shape-memory alloys, shape-memory polymers.

40. (New) The device according to claim 25,
wherein the transformable material is made of at least one of: piezo-ceramics,
piezo-polymers, electrostrictive ceramics, electrorheological fluids, polymer gels,
magnetorheological fluids, shape-memory alloys, shape-memory polymers.